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**MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® DELAWARE FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (November 29, 2012) — In its 28th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Chris Godwin of Middletown High School as its 2012-13 Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year. Godwin is the first Gatorade Delaware Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Middletown High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Godwin as Delaware's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award announced in December, Godwin joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Wes Welker (1999-00, Heritage Hall HS, Okla.), Terrell Suggs (1999-00, Hamilton HS, Ariz.), Anquan Boldin (1998-99, Pahokee HS, Fla.) and Jerome Bettis (1989-90, Mackenzie HS, Mich.).

The 6-foot-3, 195-pound junior wide receiver and linebacker has led the Cavaliers to an 11-0 record and a berth in the Division 1 state final against Salesianum, scheduled for Dec. 1. Godwin caught 39 passes for 741 yards and 11 touchdowns through 12 games. He also rushed for 372 yards and four TDs on 13 carries, scored four touchdowns on kickoff and punt returns, and recorded six sacks on defense. Godwin was a First Team All-State selection as a sophomore.

Godwin has maintained a 3.05 GPA in the classroom. He has volunteered on behalf of an area baseball program for students with special needs, and has served as a student mentor at a local elementary school.

"Chris Godwin is a special player," said Cordie Greenlea, Delcastle Vo-Tech head coach. "He's a monster on offense and an impact player on defense. He gives you fits on special teams as well. He can make a play whenever he wants to."

Godwin will begin his senior year of high school next fall.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade high school sports leadership team in partnership with USA TODAY High School Sports, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Godwin joins recent Gatorade Delaware Football Players of the Year Jamie Jarmon (2011-12, Indian River High School), Ryan Kilpatrick (2010-11, Salesianum School), C. J. Jones (2009-10, A.I. du Pont), Duron Harmon (2008-09, Caesar Rodney High School) and Brian Potts (2007-08, Caravel Academy) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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